Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6403 INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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AFDROUGHT

ABIDJAN FOR HILL

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS:EAID, NG, BE

SUBJ: TRANSPORT NEEDS AGADEZ

REF: FORT LAMY 1557 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING UP DISCUSSIONS SEPT 17 ON TRANSPORT NEEDS AGADEZ WITH WILLIAMS, VAN DE WALLE AND LOCAL GON OFFICIALS, I SPOKE WITH UNDP AND GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN NIAMEY DURING PAST WEEK. UNDP AND GL HAVE ARRANGED FOR SECOND BELGIAN C-130 AND TWO GERMAN TRANSALLS TO SUPPLEMENT SINGLE BELGIAN C-130 CURRENTLY AIRLIFTING UD.S. GRAIN FROM KANO/LAGOS. SECOND BELGIAN PLANE IS REPORTEDLY A KOKNFPN OPERATION AND TRANSALLS SCHEDULED ARRIVE SEPT 24 WITH DOUBLE CREWS. DC-4 HIRED BY FAO NOW BACK IN OPERATION ON KANO-BILMA RUN. BARRING UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES IARLIFT SHOULD BE ABLE BUILD ABOUT ONE WEEK GRAIN RESERVE IN AGADEZ BY TIME LAST OF LANES PULLED OUT NOW SET TENTATIVELY FOR OCT 4.

2. ACCORDING TO UNDP, NATIONAL CEREALS BOARD (OPVN) HAS LINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UP SUFFICIENT TRUCKS INCLUDING NIGERIEN ARMY VEHICLES TO TAKE

OVER FROM AIRLIFT DURING FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER. DISTRIBUTION WITHIN REGION WILL CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED BY BELGIAN ARMY TRUCKS AND VOLAGS. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS PLANS, BELGIANS NOW REPORTEDLY INTEND TO LEAVE THEIR TRUCKS IN COUNTRY RATHER THAN REPATRIATE THEM. ON NEGATIVE SIDE THERE HAS BEEN SLIPPAGE IN FIVE CANADIAN FUNDED TRUCKS TO BE PURCHASED BY FAO. THESE TRUCKS (20 TON CAPACITY) NOT EXPECTED ARRIVE IN COUNTRY UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER.

3. WHILE FOOD DELIVERIES TO AGADEZ PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE
TO HOVER AROUND MINIMUM LEVELS NEEDED, BLEAK SITUATION FORECASTED
BY VAN DE WALLE FOR POST AIRLIFT PERIOD DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY IF
CURRENT GON AND UNDP PLANS CARRIED OUT. GON'S PAST RECORD
OF SUPPLYING AGADEZ WITH RELIEF GRAIN (BEFORE ARRIVAL OF RAINS
AND AIRLIFT) WAS NOT BAD AND THERE NO APPARENT GROUNDS FOR
CONCLUDING THAT GON NOW INTENDS LET FOOD SITUATION DETERIORATE
THERE.
BUCHE

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